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a Weekly Narrative of History in the Making.

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EDITORIAL

A Truly Glorious Military Achievement.

Vera Cruz is to be evacuated. Why? Not because we are forced out. There is enough brute strength at the command of the American government to hold possession indefinitely. We are evacuating simply because we have no right to be there—because the Mexican people do not want us there. To the barbarous minds of Central African savages, or of white-skinned jingoes, such reasoning may seem incomprehensible. The civilized mind accepts it as a matter of course. It is no exaggeration to declare the evacuation the most glorious military achievement in American history, or probably in the history of any nation.

S. D.



Belligerent "Peace Lovers."

There is one way open to the government of each of the warring nations to prove sincerity in its protestations of desire for peace. That is to unconditionally accept President Wilson's offer of mediation. No government can reasonably claim that war was forced upon it, when it rejects a chance to secure peace.

S. D.



Impious Prayers.

Edmund Vance Cooke, the poet and philosopher, in a letter to the Cleveland Press, calls attention to the impiety which in imploring God to restore peace, places by implication, responsibility for the war upon Him. Speaking further, Mr. Cooke says:

To pray for peace and for peace per se, is a good deal like asking God please to stop the explosion of kegs of gunpowder, upon the heads of which we are engaged in cooking our daily dinners, so to speak. It might be desirable to ask Him to help us to remove the gunpowder, or to put out the fires, but why, why in the name of all that is sensible, why ask Him merely to prevent the explosions? Plain in the sight of every man are several fires burning upon the European powder-kegs. There is the fire

of autocracy which allows a Czar or a Kaiser to say "I declare war!" There is the fire of militarism, which must, absolutely must, burn through to the powder every so often to justify those who have kindled and fanned it. Why should we ask God to prevent the explosion of the powder and say nothing about the fires? If peace were to come to-day, the powder would explode again upon some early tomorrow, if we are to leave the fires. Are we trying to make a fool of God? Worse than either of these fires is the fire of economic injustice. The desires and aims and interests of all those warring peoples are identically the same. The people, whether they are peasants, laborers, or tradesmen, Latins, Slavs or Teutons, their interest is to dwell in security with the chance to earn a living, support their families and achieve a little happiness. It is all so simple. All they need is ready access to the resources of their own lands; their own, for they are buying them with their lives as they have bought them before, and the chance to mingle freely with each other through trade channels. But instead they are bound by false political and false economic laws foisted upon them from time immemorial by their masters, and bound by those chains they are hurled against each other and use their chains to beat out each other's brains! And we are asked to pray God for peace.



Mr. Cooke's letter is more than the protest of a truly religious man against the impiety which it makes clear. It lays bare the fact that responsibility for war belongs to those who oppose democracy, who demand armies and navies, and who uphold laws and institutions that make an opportunity to earn a living something to be scrambled after and fought for. He shows that these can not escape responsibility for the natural consequences of their acts, by praying that these consequences be miraculously averted. Those who pray for peace, but fail to vote as they pray, have only themselves to blame when wars come.

S. D.



Statistics and Liars.

One apologist for Big-stick statesmanship undertakes to show that a world-war after all is not such a terrible thing. All the men killed in battle would have died anyway in the course of years. And besides, great as the total is, it is not really so great as it seems. The present death rate it seems is merely twice that of the normal rate. But while the total deaths may be only twice the ordinary number, what a difference in the kind. Of the normal death rate in times of peace, 30.5 per cent are of children under fifteen years of age, and 41.5 per cent are of adults above fifty, which leaves 28.0 per cent to come from the soldier age, fifteen to fifty. Thus, to double the

death rate by war means to give a man between fifteen and fifty for every boy or girl under fifteen, and for every man and woman over fifty, in addition to these between fifteen and fifty. Yet, a man may be so enamoured of the strenuous life that he can say in all seriousness that this war is not as bad as it seems, because it is merely doubling the normal death rate.

S. C.



The Arbitrament of Arms Must Go.

The maintenance and extension of militarism has been justified in Europe in much the same way that the maintenance and extension of slavery was justified in America; that is, as a necessary means of protection against the commercial and political jealousy or antagonism of neighboring states. The obvious evils and immorality were in each case denied, or else deliberately ignored as an impossible consideration in view of the demands of "practical" statesmanship; and each evil system was finally brought to issue, with the usual mystifying complications, before the arbitrament of arms. Chattel slavery was wiped out, though at a cost which staggered humanity. The outcome of the present appeal remains to be seen. It is consoling to think, however, that the wiping out of militarism, which means of the barbarous arbitrament of arms itself, would make worth while any cost involved; and that the promise of doing it is encouraging. With each side blaming the great catastrophe on the militarism of the other, failure of present governments to provide for doing away with it must apparently result in doing away with such unbearably incompetent government.

W. G. STEWART.



"The Privilege of Every Man to Work."

In a circular sent out by a committee of Colorado's coal mine managers appears the following statement of the issue involved:

Shall we preserve law and order, and shall we maintain the constitutional privilege of every man to work where, for whom and upon such terms as he sees fit?

In comment on this a prominent educator and economic expert has written as follows:

I wonder if the I. W. W. or the Western Federation of Miners have published anything more drastic in the direction of securing supremacy of the employe over his job and his employer than this! Of course, I understand that the talent employed by the coal mine managers to draw up this circular, did not say what they meant, but is simply a piece of verbal bungling. In attempting to create a favorable impression he so far overshot the mark as to be supremely ridiculous. It is only an illustration

to my mind of the incompetence which is frequently characteristic of those accustomed to think extremely well of themselves and to wield much power. I doubt very much if even the I. W. W. would assert that the terms of labor should be entirely a matter of dictation on the part of the employe. I believe even they would be willing to admit that the prospective employe should be subject somewhat to the law of supply and demand! It pains one of a judicial temperament to see such a careless thing coming from the pillars of society and constitutional liberty. Perhaps they are equally muddled in some of their other "fundamental ideas," and perhaps security of constitutional institutions does not after all rest exclusively in their hands.



Of course the coal mine managers' committee does not mean what it says. To its members the "constitutional privilege of every man to work," etc., means nothing more than the privilege of a crowd denied their natural rights, to scramble for whatever jobs may be left open for a few of their number. Every attempt in Colorado to take any step towards opening to all labor the unused natural resources of the state has failed to get anything but bitter opposition from the interests represented by the coal mine managers' committee

S. D.



Suppressing Freedom of Debate.

There is no more effective way to stimulate interest in a subject than to prohibit its discussion. So the Seattle Board of Education, in prohibiting school debates on the Singletax, probably accomplished the reverse of what it intended, if it was moved by a desire to suppress knowledge concerning that subject. In spite of the teaching of experience, it seems very hard for bourbons to grasp the fact that suppression does not suppress.

S. D.



Driving Wealth Away.

The conscientious Indiana assessor who listed at \$20,000 a blooded stallion that had been imported at an expense of \$20,000, by a horse-breeder, and saw the animal taken to an adjoining county where a more discreet official listed him as a "horse," is not the only man who has discovered that zeal may be tempered by wisdom. In commenting upon the ceremony in New Orleans that marked the hauling down of the English flag on an American-owned ship, and the raising of the American flag, the Times-Picayune said that since the vessel was plying between that port and Central American points, it was to be regretted that its American registry had not been taken out in

New Orleans instead of New York. The explanation offered for this humiliating fact was that New Orleans taxed ships like other property, while New York exempted them. The Times-Picayune expressed the opinion that the advertising value to New Orleans from having the vessel hail from that port would be worth more to the city than the amount of taxes that might be derived. The ship plies regularly between that city and Central American points, and to have its name read "Cartago of New Orleans" would give Central Americans a better opinion of that city, than to see the name reading "Cartago of New York."



It is a mark of the stupid conservatism of present day business men that the leading citizens of New Orleans, who are so eager to recover for their city some of its lost prestige, should cling so tenaciously to one of the chief causes of its undoing. That they are not insensible to the effect of taxation as a means of encouraging or discouraging enterprise is shown by the fact that when a few years ago a steamship line was proposed between New Orleans and Brazil, a special law was passed by the legislature exempting the company from taxation for a term of years. Yet, in spite of this momentary interval of sanity, and notwithstanding the fact that its Chamber of Commerce numbers among its members men who understand the incidence of taxation, and who have been tireless in trying to open the eyes of their fellows to the light of reason, the city persists in its folly. If a single legitimate reason could be offered for its course in driving industry from its doors, and tying its own hands in its struggle with competitors it would not seem so strange. That there are narrow-minded and selfish persons who are willing to lay the burdens of government upon one set of citizens, while another class receive the benefit, may not seem strange under our topsy-turvy industrial system; but that the major part of the community should persist in a policy that defeats its avowed purpose passes understanding.



The Indiana assessor who sought to penalize his enterprising neighbor for devoting \$20,000 to improving the breed of horses in his community, not only did not receive the tax on \$20,000, but he lost the tax that he might have received on a "horse." And in addition to that he was the means of depriving his community of all future gains from blooded stock. It would have been an act of sound business policy had that town-

ship bought by public subscription such a blooded stallion, for the increase in the value of horses would soon have exceeded the outlay. Yet, when one of its citizens at his own expense attempted to do what they all knew should be done they layed a penalty upon him as though he had done a wrong to his fellows. That is what New Orleans continues to do. It fines men who will bring ships to its harbor. Upon one hand its "booster" citizens are loudly proclaiming the city's advantages as a business point, while upon the other hand they pounce upon and fine everyone who brings business to it. So great are the city's natural advantages, and so much has the Federal Government done for its harbor in deepening the mouth of the Mississippi, that some new business does come to it. The city does grow a little. Yet, though every new enterprise that comes to the city adds to the value of its land—and to the land only, for increasing population and business do not add to the value of houses and goods—the city levies upon the new comer, rather than upon the lands that have been increased in value because of the new business. No, the Indiana assessor is not the only man in this country who is standing between his community and prosperity.

S. C.



Striking at Symptoms.

The owner of a dilapidated building in Chicago, condemned by the sanitary bureau, was fined \$100 in the Municipal Court on September 19. When one considers, however, that he would have been fined much more than that had he torn the building down and erected a sanitary modern structure, the disposition of the case does not seem at all impressive. A system that punishes a man regardless of what he does can reform nothing. As long as builders are subject to fines—technically known as taxes on improvements—the most that can be accomplished by fines for maintenance of unsanitary dwellings is to stimulate the vacant lot industry.

S. D.



Encouraging Industry.

One of the chief functions of the Congressman is to "encourage industry." And the most approved method is to clothe the constituent who is unable to stand upon his own feet, with power to tax his fellow citizens for his own private benefit. The most popular form of tax-farming heretofore has been the protective tariff. But it is now discovered that there are other ways of encouraging industry; and incredible as it may

seem, one of them is to remove tariff duties. For fifty years the sugar growers of Louisiana have been allowed to tax the people of the United States to raise their income to what they thought it should be; yet, they were more helpless at the end of that half century of public aid to private business than they were at the beginning. But since the passage of the Wilson tariff bill there is a possibility that the Louisiana sugar planter will be able to lift himself out of the eleemosynary class.



The New Orleans Times-Picayune—than which there has been no louder voice raised in behalf of public largesses for sugar growers—notes the fact that the "better farming" movement in Louisiana is one of the "most important signs of the times." The paper adds:

Perhaps the most striking developments, for reasons which have to do with recent Federal legislation, are those noted in the sugar parishes, whose agricultural leaders have resolutely set about the task of reorganizing their farming systems. Sugar planters of national prominence, who refuse to be driven by adverse tariff laws from the culture of cane, frankly admit that their farming methods have been faulty and are definitely abandoning the so-called "one-crop system." By addresses and by practical example, moreover, they are winning the smaller farmers over to adoption of the same policy. The better-farming campaigns planned in Iberia and St. Mary parishes, for example, contemplate the continued culture of cane, with a rotation of crops that will rebuild their cropped-out soils and increase their yields, the production at home of adequate supplies of foodstuffs and forage, and the development of live stock and dairying industries to supplement the farmers' cash returns. Agricultural "rallies" were held last week in several "strategic points" in Iberia parish. A creamery has been established at New Iberia, and the work of tick eradication is well begun. Activities of much the same sort are reported from St. Mary. Unless all signs are utterly deceptive the years just ahead will witness a wonderful, and wonderfully helpful, reorganization of Louisiana's farming industry. In no other State of the Union, we venture to say, has the "better-farming" movement made greater headway during 1914. And the campaign is only well begun.

That is the voice of a man, as distinguished from the whine of a beggar. As long as the sugar planters were permitted to tax the rest of the people of the United States they whined, fawned, and grovelled before any one who would conserve their privilege. But now that they have at last been shaken loose from the public teat they stand up like men. "Sugar planters of national prominence," says the Times-Picayune, "who refuse to be driven by adverse tariff laws from the culture of cane, frankly admit that their farming methods

have been faulty and are definitely abandoning the so-called 'one crop' system." That is the finest thing that has come out of Louisiana since the Civil War. That is the way men talk. That is the kind of Americans we like to have Europeans think of when they turn their attention this way. But how long would it have taken those Louisianians to find their manhood, with their hands full of public largesses? This will explain the Doctor-Jekyll-Mr.-Hyde citizen who at one moment boasted that Louisiana had the richest soil and finest climate in the world, and at the next pleaded with Congress for sufficient bounties to enable him to live. It was this pernicious, un-American commercial charity system that did the mischief. Louisiana is a fine state, and her citizens, with the exception of those who have fed on public bounties until their muscles have grown soft and flabby, are good Americans. Now that they have been thrown upon their own resources we shall soon see them all walking upright, and looking the world in the face like men. Never did Congress do a better turn for any state than it did for Louisiana when it put sugar on the free list.

s. c.



Confusing Cost and Price.

The Chicago Evening Post, in a labored editorial intended to show the iniquitous nature of the new tariff law, because the first few months showed an increase in imports and a falling off of exports, says:

If wages and working conditions in Europe were uniform with those in America, no regret might be necessary over this deflection of a part of our home trade. It might act simply as a stimulous to greater enterprise and efficiency of American industries and contribute to lower prices for the consumer. But since the competition of Europe is based on cheaper labor, the tendency is to force a reduction of wages in this country.

Where did the Post learn that labor is cheaper in Europe than it is in America in any goods that come into competition with our manufacturers? Is it not thinking of wages, instead of the cost of labor. The price of labor there is lower than here, but investigation has almost invariably shown that the cost of labor is greater there than here. That high wages mean cheap labor is shown from the fact that it is from the highest waged countries in Europe that we have most competition. If low wages meant cheap labor we should need tariffs against China and India, rather than against England and Germany. Is not the Post encroaching a little on the time limit for the use of the "cheap-labor" argument? It is no longer

considered good form in the more enlightened circles to argue that the earth is flat. s. c.



More Topsy-Turviness.

When Henry George suggested as an alternative to the plan of the good woman who spilt a pot of grease on her kitchen floor—in order that she might give a poor woman fifty cents to clean it up—that she might have accomplished the same result by paying the poor woman fifty cents to make her husband a shirt, he did not qualify himself for an editorial position with the London Nation. That generally excellent journal is cautioning well-meaning citizens who are prompted to relieve the stress of the poor who are suffering on account of the war, lest they do more harm than good. "The first impulse of a man or woman," says the Nation, "who lives a comfortable and leisured life in a time of national emergency is to turn his or her hand to some job for which others are paid, without reflecting on the consequences." Thus they are cautioned against offering their services to the farmers to get in the crops, lest they deprive farm laborers of a job. Women of leisure who have set about making clothing are warned that to do this will be to take jobs from shop assistants who are out of employment. It is announced, however, that this latter nefarious scheme has been checked by protests, and that the Queen has invited the War Emergency Workers' Committee to appoint five representative women workers to serve as an advisory committee to suggest and organize suitable schemes for unemployed women.



It is to be hoped the Advisory Committee will be able to find jobs for everybody, without taking a job from anybody. But in order to do this the leisure class will have to exercise its utmost self-restraint, and refrain from doing anything useful itself. The problem seems really to be one of gymnastic charity, that is, of keeping the people at work without letting them produce anything, after the manner of the poor woman who earned her fifty cents by scrubbing up the purposely-spilled grease. The Committee is, indeed, face to face with the problem that Bolton Hall presented to the Conference of Charities and Correction at New York. "You get a man a job," he said, "— you do not make a job—you cannot make a job. Whose job do you get for him? And having got that man a job, you then have the displaced one—a little less efficient, or a little higher

waged, for whom you have to get somebody else's job."



A strange state of affairs it is. Men suffer for want of food and shelter. All the food and shelter there is or can be is produced from the earth by human labor. And it has come to pass in times of peace, and still more in time of war, that the men of leisure have more food and shelter than they can use, while the men of labor cannot get enough for comfort. If the men of leisure give to the men of labor they pauperize them. If they work for them they take jobs from others. And so they hire the women to wash out artificial grease spots, and employ the men to pound sand. It is hard sometimes to say when society looks the more grotesque, when it is engaged in-war, or when it is pursuing the paths of peace.

S. C.



Democracy and War Taxes.

It is sixteen years since a war tax was levied in the United States. That is long enough for even a party symbolized by the donkey, to make some progress. Yet the Democratic majority of the Ways and Means Committee reports a bill levying the same unwise and unjust taxes that were levied to pay the expenses of the Spanish War. They even imagine that in reporting such a bill they have committed a shrewd stroke of political policy, inasmuch as by accepting the old Republican war measure, they feel that they have blocked Republican criticism. Perhaps it will block Republican criticism—provided Republicans are willing to admit that they have learned nothing since 1898. But it will not block the criticism of genuine democrats, and Democratic Congressmen must answer to these democrats when within a few weeks they come up for re-election.



What should be the position of the Democratic party on this question, or of any party that claims to be democratic? In a letter to President Wilson, Mr. Charles H. Ingersoll, known as a democrat as well as a watch manufacturer—put the case clearly as follows:

Cannot we (you, the Democracy and the American people) add to our laurels by departing from beaten paths in choosing our War Tax?

Why must the costs of war be ever laid at the humble doors of those least able to pay—piled on the backs of the consumers, who are also the workers?

The drones make wars—why not let them pay for them?

Taxes on industry are everywhere piled so high that it cries to Heaven for relief, while real privilege tightens its death grip.

And now, when emergency overtakes us, we look for some place to lay the tax, and can see only the same long suffering common people—and put it on them because they are the only ones who cannot make a noise and rebel!

More than one-half the wealth of this country is in the form of land values, created by all the people, but owned by a relatively few of them. Drawing on this common fund would not be taxation at all, and would affect only a parasitical class whose privileges have long been recognized as having no basis of justice, but as being the basis of all other privilege.

There is incongruity in a war tax in a peaceful country, and consistency may only be established by recognizing unearned increment, as the cause not only of active war, but also of the passive unending warfare on justice—and taxing it.

Such a tax will forestall war in this country; it will restore financial and commercial balance; it will inaugurate the first great measure of democracy; it will lead the whole world toward freedom; it will be the first direct attack upon the citadel of monopoly, around which are clustered every form of privilege now being treated ineffectively.

Such a move would entrench you and our Party in the hearts of the people, and insure our opportunity to further serve them for a decade.

All over the world this great fundamental reform is being recognized, in municipalities, states and countries; Lloyd George is preaching it; Carranza and Villa are agreed on it; Roosevelt has recommended it for Alaska; you have commended it in New Zealand.

Now we have the opportunity of advocating it before the whole world as the next great forward step.

We should not miss this opportunity.

The details are covered in the bill of Congressman Warren Worth Bailey of Pennsylvania.

S. D.



Lungpower Wisdom.

Certain cities of Ancient Greece are said to have chosen their officials by having the candidates pass over the stage of the amphitheater, and allowing the judges, who were in a closed room, to decide the popularity of each by the volume of the shouts of his partisans. The method, slightly modified to suit modern conditions, is still in vogue in the United States Senate. The filibuster against the River and Harbor bill once more calls attention to the fact that reason often plays an inconsequential part in the most dignified deliberative assembly in the world. Men have been chosen to that august body on the assumption that they had reached years of discretion, and that they knew at least enough to go in when it rains. Being charged each with his individual responsibility for the making of laws, it was supposed

that the resultant action would represent in some degree the combined judgment of a majority of its members. But the overthrow of the Treasury raiders was dependent upon neither the wisdom nor the conscience of the Senators, but upon the lungpower of a few objectors. That the most august deliberative body should thus institute endurance contests as a means of determining good and bad legislation whets one's eagerness for a popularly elected Senate, in the hope that some sense of fitness may follow. s. c.



Woman Suffrage and Possible Results.

A correspondent asks concerning woman suffrage: "If the women of a given community would decide upon some action disapproved of by the men would they be able to enforce it in any real degree?" Well, it is not impossible that they could devise a means to enforce it. But if they could not they would be no worse off than if they had never been given the suffrage. It is not fear lest the mandate of a woman majority should not be enforced that prompts the opposition to suffrage, but fear that it will be. The same correspondent asks, after quoting William J. Bryan's argument in favor of suffrage: "If Mr. Bryan can do some of the strenuous and serious work of life for his wife why should he wish to put everything upon her shoulders?" There was nothing in Mr. Bryan's statement to justify such a question. Woman suffrage will put no burden on any woman's shoulders that she does not wish to assume. But it will give to every woman an opportunity now denied to her—an opportunity to participate in deciding public questions that affect her as much as any male citizen. No woman will be obliged to take advantage of this opportunity who does not so desire.



The correspondent further says: "In spite of the woman's vote I notice that boss rule has just been re-established in Illinois." If this is intended as a reference to the result of the Senatorial primary, it is due to a misapprehension. Illinois women have not the right to vote for Senator. But even if they had and had used their votes foolishly it would have been irrelevant. For arguments as to whether women will make good or bad use of the vote have nothing to do with the case for suffrage. Until it can be shown that governments derive their just powers from some other source than the consent of the governed, the case for woman suffrage is incontestible. s. d.

Robert Moore's Nomination.

Though Miss Caroline Grote failed to secure the Democratic nomination in Illinois for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, her supporters have little cause to regret that the successful candidate is Robert C. Moore of Carlinville, who is also a genuine democrat, as well as an educator of many years' experience. It was fortunate that, although there were six candidates for this position, democratic votes were not so divided between Mr. Moore and Miss Grote as to prevent the nomination of either. Had there been a preferential vote, it is probable that there would have been more nominees of the caliber of Mr. Moore and a more creditable ticket would have been selected to make the contest in November. s. d.



Fundamental Reformers Should Support Robins.

There is but one Senatorial candidate in Illinois, with a reasonable chance of election, on whom progressives of all parties can consistently unite. That candidate is Raymond Robins. Democratic Democrats and Democratic Republicans alike should come together and form a common organization to co-operate with Robins' Progressive party supporters. The reactionaries of all parties may be depended upon to secretly combine before November and push the candidacy of either Sullivan or Sherman as may seem best to them at the time. Progressives cannot afford to divide their strength under the circumstances. s. d.

s. d.



THE PRESIDENT'S CALL TO PRAYER.

President Wilson sets a day apart, requesting the American people to pray for the cessation of the European conflict.

For years Europe has been expending one billion dollars per year in preparation for this war and now when the murderous equipment which she has created is turned loose on its errand of Hell and destruction, we are going to ask God to stop it.

What an insult! How ungrateful! When we have been given life and the privilege of growth; free will and choice; a fertile earth responding to our every need; a giant landscape of surpassing beauty and we have chosen to build shambles where the blossoms ought to grow.

Now let us pray to Him to tear the shambles down? Hardly! If He did we would only rear

them up again; none but man himself can forge the cannon into pruning shears, such is the LAW.

Providence being beneficent allows us to reap what we have sown; it is so in our individual lives; there is no other way to learn truth.

Would that we could see ourselves.



"Terrible, appalling, horrible," can be heard every day, anywhere as voicing the speaker's idea of this great war; yet we are in the throes of an industrial conflict equally as barbaric, where greater numbers perish and many more are wounded every year.

But Europe's war is spectacular and sudden, and destruction is swift; ours is a slow grinding process that knows no day of rest; it never stops; lives innumerable are blasted slowly by days and years, then snuffed out.

Blasting lives is our business, but being blind egotists we do not see.

We produce all the staple foods and fibers; and in such prodigal quantity that 'tis said we feed the world.

Nature has blessed us with mineral deposits in keeping with our food supply, until by her gifts we are the United States of abundance.

In the face of these gifts and the presence of the Giver we employ nearly two million children in the factories of our "big interests," at the same time that hosts of able bodied men are idle and in want.

Glutted with abundance we destroy this multitude of little children—for of such is the profit of Mammon; indeed, we have closed our eyes and stopped our ears, and have not seen their distress nor heard their cry.

Poverty we have everywhere in the midst of this plenty. Why?

Of property we make a fetish, every mother's son of us from the garbage man to the Kaiser wants property; we talk, think and have our being in property; merchandise is our God, to sell it is man's noblest work; this may not be our ideal, but it is our practical everyday life.

Property is necessary; proprietorship in the earth is vital to our existence, but if we admit the principle of private ownership in land and its monopoly, then, indeed, do we become slaves to the cunning few who, while we work, plan and scheme and pass laws for our despoliation.

Monopoly is the mother of all wars; even religious wars are the fruit of that desire, the religious combatants desiring a monopoly of adherents to their creed.

Let us pray to our Creator that war in Europe may cease, but let us also work with our Creator that industrial war in these United States may be ended.

W. E. GORDON.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

WAR CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

Bendigo, Victoria, Aug. 22, 1914.

War has been declared between England and Germany and we have settled down to believe that it was inevitable. A few in Australia have misgivings, but the general tone is one of confidence in the British fleet and the non-miraculousness of the German army. At first there was a disposition to lay in domestic stocks of groceries and to encourage a big jump in prices, but, no terrific disaster having made itself immediately felt, people have settled down to buying and selling and marrying and giving in marriage. Great enthusiasm is being manifested in volunteering for service and the Commonwealth's contribution of 20,000 men will be furnished easily. On the whole the personal quality is very high, very few scallawags, and most actuated by a deep and quietly expressed sense of duty. Everywhere the German communities are by resolution in public meeting assembled declaring their loyalty to their adopted country—sincerely I think, for they know they have nothing to fear, the word having been passed round to give them the most sympathetic respect, and the State school teachers having exhorted British children to be kind to German children.

CYRIL F. JAMES.



WAR CONDITIONS IN AUSTRIA.

Budapest, Hungary, August 18, 1914.

To be free and yet a prisoner in a land far from home is the condition of many thousands of Americans who came to Europe for a rest. They will need a very good rest after they get back to the United States. It is doubtful if many of them will ever come to Europe again for a vacation. They will spend their money "at home" in the future. In southern Europe there are no trains and one cannot get to a seaport, and no steamers are sailing anyway to any part of the world.

Money orders and letters of credit are just so much useless paper and rich men borrow for their breakfast and board. Cablegrams are accepted but not forwarded and letters rarely leave the postoffice or even the letter box. The Consul says, "I have no money myself for office expenses, as the banks do no business," and thus European civilization is at a standstill.

Not only are we helpless but some of us are in real terror. In Austria, Hungary and Germany they hate the sight of an Englishman. "English Park," a place of amusement in Budapest, has changed its name. "English Tailor" has changed its name to "German Tailor." "Five o'clock tea," "English styles," and English expressions have ceased entirely. English exports, marmalades, foods, leather, cloth ma-

chines, books, cutlery, pipes, cigarettes, shoes, and even the English language is stopped. A negro comedian from the States was in the act of singing "On the Mississippi!" and the police stopped the act—"No English permitted, Angol tilos—Englisch verboten."

We Americans suffer by it, as we also speak the English language. We do not go on the streets at night, and the mob changes the sign of any merchant who has the word "English" on display.

Newspapers print only fixed news, and as no foreign papers reach us we do not know what is really going on in the world—or even in Europe. Nothing can appear in the press or in the stores without the sanction of those who are working at the war game. They have taken all the able-bodied young men away to the wars and have left the old men and the cripples. This is government by proclamation. Whenever the powers choose to send a letter or a message or the news of a battle they do it—otherwise the women do not know when they become widows. Women manage street cars and subways, as the men have been led to slaughter.

After it's all over Europe will awaken from her bloody nightmare. Her young men will be in graves or in hospitals and they will wonder—those who are still among the living—what it was all about. Europe is bankrupt today. Treasuries are empty and food is scarce. After the battles, the living will "make a break" for America, the land of many dreams of the future of the race.

NICHOLAS KLEIN,
Attorney of Cincinnati.



CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATS ARE PROGRESSIVE

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 19.

The campaign for progressive measures, which was launched by Democrats at Lake Compounce June 27th last, is beautifully reflected in the platform adopted by the Democratic State Convention at Hartford this week. This favors every one of the eight proposals put forward by the Compounce Committee as follows: Nominations by petition and direct primary; the initiative and referendum; the short ballot; votes for women; repeal of the personal tax; abolition of contract labor in jails and prison; home rule for all communities; and prohibition of special legislation. These questions were referred to the registered Democrats of the State, by means of a post card ballot. Several thousand answers were received, and with the exception of votes for women, the favorable majorities were overwhelming. The platform declaration on the suffrage question calls for the submission of the necessary constitutional amendment to popular vote.

CHRISTOPHER M. GALLUP.



NATIONAL TAX CONFERENCE AND SINGLETAX.

Denver, Colo., Sept. 15.

The National Tax Conference held on September 8 to 10 was interesting, especially the final session, which was devoted to the singletax discussion. There was presented a paper by Mr. F. J. Dixon

of Winnipeg which was read by Mr. A. C. Pleydell. F. C. Wade of Vancouver, who was to oppose the singletax, was not present but contributed a paper that was read by one of the delegates from Iowa. This was followed by a short speech by Pleydell in defense of the singletax. R. E. Smith of Roseburg, Oregon, followed with the usual stereotyped speech about the farmers owning much of the land and singletax being in the interest of the rich fellow. Smith's effort was rather sophomorical and I would judge that it did not make much of an impression. Thomas S. Adams, State Tax Commissioner of Wisconsin, immediately followed Smith. Without committing himself on singletax Adams played havoc with Smith's argument about the farmers. He showed that the great burden of personal property taxation in Wisconsin rests upon the farmer. The discussion had a good effect although it did not partake of the nature of a debate and was a rather tame affair.

JOHN B. McGAURAN.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

A HERESY TRIAL SUGGESTED.

Cincinnati, O., Sept. 18, 1914.

The editorial on page 890 under the heading, "A WAR-LIKE CLERGYMAN," is suggestive. Would it not be a wholesome proceeding for the Baptist denomination, in fact all Christian denominations, to try the Rev. Mr. Haldeman for heresy? We have had heresy trials in the past for difference of belief as to matters of fact inessential to Christian life. Why not expel Brother Haldeman for rank heresy in denying one of the supreme teachings of Jesus? Whatever the practicability and efficacy of the Golden Rule, it would seem unthinkable that a man should be a Christian clergyman and deny its applicability to life. A heresy trial as to fundamentals would be interesting.

EDWARD F. ALEXANDER.



MORE ABOUT THE RED CROSS

New York, Sept. 18, 1914.

The militarists are coming to their peaceful friends in droves now, pleading through Press and Pulpit for funds for the Red Cross, and many a heart melts at the thought of bringing healing and comfort to the "poor victims of war." Let us look at the matter calmly, we radicals, and speak the truth about this although it may make us seem unkind. Logic is frequently unkind, and offends the sentimental.

Our Comrade Bolton Hall wrote an answer to appeals for charity which the Public has often quoted. It is unique in its way, so perfectly does it cover the ground. And I shall quote some of it here once more, to show how, with some slight changes of words, it will serve as an answer all Singletaxers may rightfully make when asked to contribute to the Red Cross Funds.

Mr. Hall says:

"Asking help from supporters of things as they are is merely asking the persons responsible for poverty, misery and disease to do something to relieve

their victims. But asking help from Singletaxers is practically asking those who are using all their spare means to prevent further mischief, to relax their efforts in order to enable others to evade the duty of relieving those whom they have made poor."

This, therefore, is my answer when asked to contribute to the Red Cross:

"Asking help from the supporters of militarism and imperialism is merely asking the persons responsible for war, death and destruction to do something to relieve their victims. But, as one who has devoted what little energy, power and means she may possess to combatting the ideals of militarism and imperialism, as well as all the other forms of brutal privilege and enthroned force, I cannot see why I should relax such efforts to enable those who believe in all these things to evade their full duty of helping updo in some part the wrong they have brought about."

The Red Cross is as much a part of army organization as is the engineer corps, or a battleship or any of the rest of it. A true anti-militarist, who understands to the full what the terms militarism means and implies, might as well give money towards a new battleship as toward the Red Cross work. The Red Cross stands as an acknowledgement that war and militarism and all they mean are a necessary part of civilized society. Exactly as organized charity is an admission on the part of the community that the conditions which make charity necessary are an inevitable and integral part of the community life. We Singletaxers who deny this, do not believe in nor support organized charity. Therefore those of us who are convinced anti-militarists do not support the Red Cross, whatever the Unthinking may say of us.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.



THE SALARY AND WAGE PROBLEM.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 12.

There seems to be a cloud of superstition befogging the mind of the average individual, especially the minds of the salary earning classes. These good people think they are working for money and that the higher the wage the greater the income. This is a false belief. If the wages of the lowest paid worker should be raised to \$100 a week and the wages of the other workers adjusted to this scale, which would be sure to follow, the purchasing power of the wage would not be increased the value of a paper collar. Money is only a substitute for the debit and credit side of the ledger. No one works for money except the miser. All others are striving for that which money will purchase. Practically the workman exchanges his labor for the commodities which he uses and consumes during his stay on earth. This statement is proved by the following approximate list of necessities and luxuries used and consumed by the average working man during a period of say thirty-five years, to-wit:

- 25 suits of clothes.
- 100 suits of underclothes.
- 40 each of neckties, pairs of gloves.
- 2 watches, a number of rings, stickpins, charms, collar buttons and knives.
- 10 sacks of sugar.

4 barrels of flour.

5 barrels of liquors.

A quantity of drugs.

A supply of household goods.

A house and lot or its equivalent paid in rent.

One street car, or its equivalent, paid in 5-cent fares.

An interest in a railroad car, paid by buying railroad tickets.

A load of books, papers, stationery and postage.

The equivalent of an interest in a theater, circus or ball game equipment.

Some insurance, chances, risks, lawsuits, church and lodge dues. City, county, state and tariff taxes. But all the wage earners are not satisfied with that which their present exchange of labor will procure; therefore they resort to strikes and boycotts, believing that through these means they will better their condition. This is a delusion. No such methods will ever bring about that which they desire. But if, instead, they will abolish the custom houses and destroy all tariff walls the present purchasing power of their earnings will be increased one-third, thus giving them all or more than they hoped to gain by means of the strike or boycott.

When Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden they were compelled to depend upon their labor for protection. It is labor, not protective tariffs and the hidden taxes consequent thereunto, that increases the income and adds to the material comforts of man.

F. A. TAPPAN, M. D.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, September 22, 1914.

The European War.

Few changes of moment have occurred in the position of the several armies during the last week. Ten nations are now engaged—Germany and Austria on one side, and Russia, France, England, Belgium, Portugal, Servia, Montenegro, and Japan on the other. Severe battles, accompanied by heavy losses, have been fought by the troops of all these nations, but no decisive action on land or sea has occurred. Casualty lists are either withheld from the public, or are given out in such a form as to prevent a full understanding of the situation. No indications are yet apparent that any of the countries is ready to talk peace. [See current volume, page 897.]



The Franco-German Campaign.

No sooner had the German right wing, under General von Kluck, safely crossed the River Aisne, in its retreat after the battle of Marne, than a continuous and dogged struggle began along the

whole line extending from Noyon on the Oise to the forest of Argonne, to see which army could drive the other from its entrenchments. Torrential rains fell, and the soldiers were under the strain of battle almost continually from the beginning of the battle of Marne on the 7th. The German right wing faces the River Aisne, the center is before Reims, and the left wing is in the forest of Argonne. The Allies are said to equal the Germans in number, and the two together are reported to number more than two million men. Efforts are reported on the part of the Allies to move round to the west of the German right wing and outflank General von Kluck's men. The German center has made a furious assault on the city of Reims, which is occupied by the French, but without avail. The bombardment by the Germans is reported to have been destructive of public buildings; among those destroyed is said to be the famous cathedral. Great secrecy shrouds the operations of both armies. It is supposed that some of the troops from India have arrived on the scene. Reinforcements to the number of 100,000 men are said to have joined the German forces. The Allies have forced back the troops under General von Kluck several miles, in their flanking movement; but German official reports claim with equal positiveness that the advantage lies with them. Artillery duels continue night and day, with intervals of close fighting by infantry. Bayonet charges are reported.



The Campaign in Eastern Europe.

There is little change in the position of the Russian and German armies in eastern Prussia and western Russia. With the German strength thrown against the Allied armies in the north of France, and the Russian forces engaged in Austria, the Russo-German campaign is inactive. Reports from the Russo-Austrian campaign are mostly from Petrograd sources, and give continued Russian successes. Notwithstanding the earlier Austrian reverses their armies in Galicia are making a stubborn resistance, and still hold the strongly fortified town of Przemysl. The Russian forces outnumber the Austrians, and are reported to be gradually overwhelming them. The Servian army invading Austria is reported to be 150,000 strong, and is making such progress in its march toward Budapest that Austria has been obliged to detach four army corps from its Galician army to meet them. The Servians and Montenegrins, operating together in Bosnia, have captured the town of Rogbitza, which puts them within ten miles of Sarajevo, the capital of the Province. There is great unrest among the Balkan states, and fears are entertained that more of them may enter the conflict. Neither Turkey nor Italy has made a hostile move, though both seem to be on the verge of doing so.

Japan.

Slight skirmishes have occurred between the Germans and Japanese troops during the latter's advance on Kiau-chau, but no action of consequence is reported. The operations of the Japanese fleet are not allowed to pass the censor.



Belgium.

Brisk campaigning between the Belgians and Germans continue in the vicinity of Antwerp. The Germans are reported to be bringing up siege guns to attack Antwerp. The city provisioned to stand a twelve months' siege. Termonde, to the southwest of Antwerp, is reported destroyed by the Germans. The German garrison of occupation at Brussels is reported withdrawn and replaced by Austrians. Fewer supply trains for the German army in France are operating through Belgium, and the inference drawn is that the army is now supplied through Luxemburg.



England.

Military operations are still conducted for the most part under cover of the press censorship. Recruiting in the United Kingdom continues, and the forces are being dispatched to the Continent. The final accomplishment of Home Rule for Ireland has awakened a quick response from the Irish. John Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalists, is making speeches, urging the Irish to enlist. He declares the war to be a just war in behalf of the highest ideals, and declares Ireland would be false to "her history, and to every consideration of honor" if she did not bear her share in the responsibilities and the burdens. "We have," he said, "even when no ties of sympathy bound our country to Great Britain, always given our quota, and more than our quota, to the firing line; and we shall do so now."



The most important naval event that has taken place was the sinking of three British cruisers in the North Sea off the German coast by German submarines. The three cruisers, Aboukir, Hague, and Cressy, carried a complement of 2,100 men. The number lost is not known, but is thought to have been large. The German protected cruiser, Koenigsberg, discovered the British light cruiser Pegasus overhauling her machinery and cleaning her boilers in Zanzibar harbor, and completely disabled her. The British loss was twenty-five killed and eighty wounded. The German cruiser Emden reported to have captured six British merchant ships in Bengal bay in six days, and sunk five of them. The German merchant cruiser, supposed to have been the Cape Trafalgar or the Berlin, was sunk by the former Cunard liner Carmania, also armed as a cruiser, off the east coast of South America. Other small engagements are rumored, but nothing of consequence is officially reported.

The Irish Home Rule bill, which had been passed three times by the House of Commons, in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Act, in spite of its rejection by the House of Lords, was signed by the King on the 18th. Its date of operation has been postponed for one year. Great enthusiasm among the Nationalists and Liberals was manifested when the announcement was made in Parliament, where the Irish for the first time joined in singing "God Save the King." The Welsh Disestablishment bill also was signed by the King. Parliament was prorogued until the 27th of October.



South Africa.

The campaign of the British against German Southwest Africa, in which little has been reported, is brought into prominence by the resignation of Brigadier General Christian Frederick Beyers, Commandant General of the Union of South African forces, because of his disapproval of Great Britain's action in sending commandoes to conquer the Germany colony. General Jan Christian Smuts, minister of finance and defense of the South African Union, in reply said that the coast of the Union was threatened, that mail boats have been held up, and that her borders had been invaded by the Germans. "I cannot," he said, "conceive of anything more fatal and humiliating than a life of loyalty in fair weather and a policy of neutrality and pro-German sentiment in days of storm and stress."



Anti-Imperialist League on the War.

The Belgian delegation, which has called on President Wilson, received a letter from the Anti-Imperialist League as follows:

Boston, Mass., Sept. 16, 1914.

To the Belgian Delegation:

Gentlemen—The Anti-Imperialist League, believing that the neutralization of small countries is a very long step towards the preservation of international peace and an important curb upon aggressive imperialism, desires to express the indignation and horror with which it has seen Belgium and Luxemburg invaded and the people of Belgium visited with all the terrors of war, in violation of solemn treaties guaranteeing that the territory of each country should be inviolable, and it hopes that when this war ends the losses which the people of Belgium have suffered will be made good so far as it is humanly possible, and the independence of both Belgium and Luxemburg re-established upon a foundation which is not hereafter to be shaken.

ERVING WINSLOW,

MORRFIELD STOREY,

Secretary.

President.

The Associated Press refused to transmit an account of this letter.

Washington News.

Opposition to the proposed tax on freight shipments forced Majority Leader Oscar Underwood of the House of Representatives to withdraw his bill on September 15. On September 21 a new war tax bill was reported by the Ways and Means Committee. As finally drafted it levies a tax of \$1.50 a barrel on beer; sweet wines, 20 cents a gallon; dry wines, 12 cents; gasoline, 2 cents a gallon; bankers, \$2 on each \$1,000 of capital and surplus and undivided profits; brokers, \$50 each; pawn brokers, \$20; commercial brokers, \$20; custom house brokers, \$10; proprietors of theaters, museums and concert halls in cities of 15,000 population or over, \$100 each; circus proprietors, \$100 a year; a proprietor of other exhibitions, \$10, and proprietors of bowling alleys and billiard-rooms, \$5 for each alley or table. Tobacco dealers and manufacturers are taxed the same as in 1898 except that in the largest class, tobacco dealers not specifically provided for, the tax is \$4.80 each. The bill levies a tax of 5 cents on bonds and certificates of indebtedness for each \$1,000 involved; 1 cent on telephone messages costing 15 cents or more, and 1 cent on all telegraph messages; indemnity bonds, 50 cents; certificates of profits, 2 cents; certificates of damage, 25 cents each; life insurance policies, 8 cents on each \$100; fire marine, casualty, fidelity and guaranty insurance policies, 1/2 cent on each dollar; goods withdrawn from custom houses all to pay a stamp tax of 50 cents, and goods entered at custom houses from 25 cents to \$1 according to value. A tax of 2 cents for each seat in a parlor car and for each berth in a sleeping car is levied. On passage tickets from an American to a foreign port a tax of from \$1 to \$5 is levied. A tax of 10 cents is levied on brokers' contracts; deeds and other conveyances, 50 cents for each additional \$500; mortgages 25 cents for each \$1,500; power of attorney to vote 10 cents; power of attorney to sell 25 cents; protest of a note, bill of acceptance, etc., 25 cents. The war tax is effective immediately upon passage, except that the stamp tax provisions is operative November 1. [See current volume, page 898.]



A telegram protesting against the proposed tax on liquors was sent on September 15 from the national headquarters of the W. C. T. U. at Evanston, Illinois, as follows:

To the President of the United States, Washington:—Three hundred thousand members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union respectfully entreat you to discourage the plan to raise any part of the proposed emergency revenue by placing an added tax on alcoholic liquors.

We believe such a tax will give still greater government protection to a ruinous trade now facing final defeat.

Another protest had been sent to the President

on September 12 by the Wine Growers' Association of California, objecting to the proposed tax on wines, on the ground that it would be confiscatory and that if levied, the grape crop, now ripe, could not be sold.



The House bill, said to embody the wishes of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, designed to eliminate dwelling houses in the alleys of Washington, passed the Senate on September 18.



The River and Harbor bill, carrying appropriations of \$93,000,000, which had passed the House was defeated in the Senate on September 21, when a motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Commerce carried by a vote of 27 to 22. The motion carries instructions to the committee to cut the bill down to a sum not exceeding \$20,000,000. The majority for the motion to recommit consisted of 16 Democrats and 11 Republicans. Four Republicans, one Progressive and 17 Democrats constituted the minority.



A resolution directing the House Labor Committee to investigate conditions in the textile mills at Atlanta, Georgia, was introduced on September 15 by Representative Greene of Massachusetts.



Treaties with the United States, embodying the Wilson-Bryan peace plan, were signed on September 15 by the governments of France, Spain, Great Britain and China. In comment on this, Secretary of State William J. Bryan, said:

The signing of the four treaties today with Great Britain, France, Spain and China bring under treaty obligations more than 900,000,000 people. These, when added to the population of the United States and the population of the twenty-two countries with which similar treaties heretofore have been signed, brings under the influence of these treaties considerably more than two-thirds of the inhabitants of the globe.

As these treaties all provide for investigation of all matters in dispute before any declaration of war or commencement of hostilities, it is believed they will make armed conflict between the contracting nations almost, if not entirely, impossible.

[See current volume, pages 805, 899.]



The Eastern railroads recently refused a five per cent advance in freight rates, petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission on September 15 to reopen the case. Loss of income due to the war is given as the reason. The hearing has been set for October 19. On September 21 the railroads also asked for permission to increase passenger fares on the basis of 2½ cents a mile. [See current volume, page 756.]

The Federal Reserve Board on September 19 approved the general outlines of a plan submitted by bankers to meet American obligations to European creditors. One hundred million dollars in gold is to be deposited in the Canadian branch of the Bank of England. Details of the plan are still to be considered. [See current volume, page 783.]



In response to complaints that have come to him, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo on September 21 issued a warning to the national banks which have received government funds to aid in crop moving, or have received emergency currency, that they must not charge excessive interest rates or refuse legitimate credits. [See current volume, page 783.]



The Labor War.

The Executive Board of the United Mine Workers of America at Indianapolis on September 15 accepted President Wilson's proposition for a three-year truce in the Colorado coal fields. A letter was sent to the President, of which the following is a part:

We have weighed well and thoughtfully both the sentiments expressed in your personal letter and the proposed tentative basis for the adjustment of the coal mining strike in Colorado, the acceptance of which you urge "with very deep earnestness."

The organization, which we have the honor to represent, stands for industrial peace. We favor the establishment of right relations between employers and employes to the end that strikes may be rendered unnecessary. Having proper regard for these aims, we sought in the beginning to avoid an industrial conflict in Colorado. We repeatedly asked for a meeting with the mine owners with the object in view of entering into contractual relations with them so that peace might prevail.

Had this been done, we are confident that the awful industrial struggle, which has been going on in Colorado, could have been avoided; instead of bloodshed, bitterness, industrial strife and economic waste, there could have been established throughout the coal fields peace, prosperity and harmonious co-operation.

It is our judgment that employers and employes, through their chosen representatives, ought to meet and settle their differences by mutual agreement. A direct, working agreement, entered into in a friendly spirit, makes for abiding permanent industrial peace. This, we believe, ought to be done by the miners and operators of Colorado. However, we are mindful of the suffering and waste which this strike has thus far imposed and the additional sacrifice which will be made if it continues.

Feeling keenly, therefore, our responsibilities, as the representatives of our organization, we accept your proposed basis of settlement of the Colorado strike—subject, of course, to the approval of the miners of Colorado. A convention of the representatives of the miners of Colorado will be held at

Trinidad, Colo., Tuesday, Sept. 15, at which time action will be taken thereon.

We sincerely appreciate the personal concern which you have manifested in the Colorado strike. Speaking as you do, in the name of all the people of our great nation, we feel it our duty to respond to your earnest wish. We do so, therefore, as we trust in the true spirit of American citizenship.

The Colorado miners at Trinidad on September 16 approved the action of the Executive Board and voted 83 to 8 to accept the President's proposal. [See current volume, page 900.]



The coal mine owners met at Denver on September 19 to consider the three-year truce plan. No definite decision was announced but a committee was appointed to call on President Wilson and explain to him their position.



Robert C. Moore Nominated.

Complete returns of the Illinois primary show that Robert C. Moore of Carlinville was nominated for Superintendent of Public Instruction. The first reports had given the nomination to Miss Caroline Grote. [See current volume, page 899.]



Mexico and the United States.

Plans have been completed for the carrying out of the President's order for the withdrawal of the United States troops in Vera Cruz. The exact date of withdrawal will not be set until adjustments of questions growing out of the customs management have been effected, and ample time has been allowed for the removal of American and Mexican refugees in Vera Cruz. A large number of nuns and priests have taken refuge in the city, and General Funston estimates that there are 1,000 other persons who wish to leave before the evacuation; and time must be allowed for all to secure transportation. [See current volume, page 898.]



Consular dispatches report that conditions throughout Mexico are fast assuming their normal appearance. It is said that virtually every governor and military chieftain has signified his intention of attending the national convention called by General Carranza for October 1st.

NEWS NOTES

—United States Senator John Walter Smith of Maryland was renominated by the Democrats at the primaries on September 15. The Republican nominee is Edward C. Carrington.

—The Wisconsin Democratic convention on September 15 at Madison was controlled by the reac-

tionary element. It disapproved of the pending amendment for the Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

—Registration days in Chicago for the fall election will be on Saturday, October 3, and on Tuesday, October 13. All voters, including those who registered in September for the primary, must register on one of these days to take part in the November election.

—The complexion of the Maine legislature is still in doubt. On the face of the returns the Republicans have a majority of two in the Senate and the Democrats of two in the House with a number of seats to be contested. The Progressives elected two members. [See current volume, page 900.]

—Attorney General Webb of California and the State Railroad Commission were enjoined on September 14 by Federal Judge Maurice T. Dooling at San Francisco from enforcing a state law declaring pipe line companies, common carriers, and requiring them to file their rates with the commission.

—The Nineteenth Annual Illinois State Conference of Charities and Corrections will be held on October 24, 25, 26 and 27 at La Salle. At the same time and place meetings will be held of the State Anti-Tuberculosis Association, State Probation Officers' Association and the State Association of Superintendents of Country Homes.

—The State Committee of the Washington party (official name in Pennsylvania for the Progressive party) met at Harrisburg on September 16 and substituted the name of Vance McCormick, Democratic nominee for Governor, for that of the regularly nominated Washington party candidate, William Draper Lewis, who has withdrawn. [See current volume, page 893.]

—Arkansas on September 15 approved an initiative act prohibiting employment of any child who has attended school less than four years or is under 14 years of age. It also prohibits employment of children under 16 in hazardous occupations. Children between 14 and 16 may not be employed more than eight hours a day, and those between 16 and 18 no more than nine hours a day.

—Ben J. Salmon, Democratic nominee in Denver for the Colorado legislature, announces his platform as follows: "Colorado has natural resources to employ more than 100 times her present population. Silly laws taxing the use of these available resources and surrounding them with artificial barriers prevents employment of labor and investment of capital. Tax population-values only—employ more people—invest more capital. We need fewer laws and these made to conform to natural law."

—As a result of a protest by a committee consisting of Thornwald Siegfried, E. B. Ault, G. E. Tilton and Theodore Teepe, the Seattle School Board announced on September 14 that its prohibition of school debates on the single tax will not go into effect this year. Acting President Shorrock of the Board explained that "the board is continually beset by individuals who wish to exploit the schools for political propaganda and it is obliged to guard against such attempts." Since the State Board of Education has already sent out literature to the high schools on this question, he said, it has been

decided to admit it to debate this year. [See current volume, page 901.]

PRESS OPINIONS

A Sane English View of the War.

Land Values (London), September.—It is a sad reflection that nations which are the leaders of European culture should be involved in a brutal and devastating conflict. Everyone feels that it is wretched to be engaged in warfare against a nation which has made so great contributions to science, art and literature as Germany has, and on all sides the sentiment is heard: "We have no quarrel with the German people; it is Prussian bureaucracy that has forced us into this." This is in part an explanation, but it is not enough. There remains the question, why did the common people of Germany, France, and Britain, who will pay for it in blood and suffering, permit their rulers to declare war? In a great measure because the common people, if not actuated by hostile feelings to the common people of other countries, are filled with suspicion of them through ignorance, and that ignorance is due to the fact that they are all exploited by unrighteous economic adjustments which concentrate wealth in the hands of a few and leave the masses poor. A degree of economic emancipation which would permit the ordinary citizen of one country to become acquainted with the citizens of other countries in their own homes and become acquainted with their literature and their ideals would make war an impossibility, for no ruling class could get the popular support necessary in order to carry it on. . . . Swiftly and surely war will exact its tribute of money and blood and suffering from every family in the country; and they have grounds for saying so who say that war is madness; but there are other madneses—their economic madness, which day after day takes its toll of wretchedness and suffering. If only the casualties in the battle of life were all collected and published day after day in an Official Gazette! Then we should read: killed by evil housing conditions, so many; killed by long toil and low wages, so many; killed by starvation, who could not get enough bread to keep them alive, so many. And then the long list of the wounded—those blighted and careworn lives! And the women and the little children. It is natural that humanity should be moved by the vivid sufferings of war, but it is eternally wrong and sad and unjust that so little should be done for the sufferings of peace. Little is done to relieve them, still less is done to eradicate the causes of suffering. Let not more spectacular things withdraw too much attention from the main object that all should have in view—to put an end to economic exploitation. In order to put an end to war madness we must put an end to economic enslavement. Territorial aggrandisement will not be an objective of peoples who are allowed to make use of the land of their own country. Culture and leisure too will come when mankind are allowed to use to the utmost the kindly earth which is the source of all wealth. And with culture and leisure will come that international solidarity which all must desire, the mutual under-

standing, trust and forbearance which will make war impossible.



A Revival of Liberty.

The Nation (London) August 29.—There is another aspect of the Irish situation which is of special interest at this moment. The capture of a Rhodes Scholar serving in the German army in one of the frontier engagements last week reminds us that fifteen years ago if Germany and France had been at war the great body of upper-class sympathy in England would have been on the side of Germany. Britain was then Imperialist, and Imperialist Britain took Germany as its model. Mr. Rhodes valued the affinities so highly that he gave Germany—alone of European peoples—a share in his great benefactions. All our thinking took German color. Professor Hobhouse traced this influence in his book on "Democracy and Reaction." Efficiency was our God; the day of small nations was over; good government was better than self-government; we had a mission to impose our institutions by force; we despised all the triumphs that were specially our own, and we admired in Germany just the spirit that crushed the best influences in her life. But this Imperialism did not last. When Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman gave self-government to South Africa, he proclaimed to the world that the nation had re-discovered the secret of its greatness, and reverted to the liberal ideas that had gained for its place in the history of the world its chief success and distinction. The view of life and societies and human development that overwhelmed us in the time of the Boer War—and melted away as our normal habits returned—has been the settled philosophy of the powerful class that governed Germany. When the Kaiser sent his soldiers to China, he called himself a second Attila; when he welcomed the new century, he could only think of duty as armed service. This theory, elaborated with all the thoroughness of German industry and concentration, has been developed in a literature of incitement, and it has brought the German people, with so many triumphs to their credit in other fields, into this violent catastrophe.



All Warfare Is Uncivilized.

Chicago Evening Post, August 26.—What is civilized warfare? . . . The unpleasant scalping habit of the Indian has been regarded as reprehensible by civilized nations. They prefer to drop bombs from airships upon the heads of defenseless people. The mutilation of the dead enemy, practiced by certain savage peoples who are shockingly devoid of refined sensibilities, naturally distresses us. It is so much more civilized to mutilate the living with contact mines and exploding grenades that scatter a hail of steel-clad bullets. The fact that the mine may destroy a shipload of noncombatants as easily and unintelligently as it destroys a battleship of the enemy detracts in no degree from its great advance upon the barbaric methods of earlier days. . . . What is uncivilized warfare today? So far as we can discover, if you are a citizen in a town that is beleaguered; . . . if all that you hold dear is threatened

by an invading enemy, and under the impulse of these "ifs," when the dreaded foe appears in your street, you open fire from the shelter of your home, it is uncivilized warfare. Your savage conduct justifies the enemy in setting the city ablaze and avenging himself upon you and yours in any manner that his ingenuity can suggest. . . . And this is true of all nations. It is by common consent the way the game is played. You have done only what the law would justify you in doing if a burglar forced an entrance to your home, but under the recognized rules of "civilized warfare" to treat a foreign foe as a burglar—unless you wear a uniform—is the height of barbarity. Let us have done with this talk of "civilized warfare." The thing is non-existent.



Seattle's Unwise School Board.

Seattle Star, Sept. 12.—The Seattle Board of Education has decreed that the children shall not debate the single tax theory. Whether you believe or disbelieve in single tax is aside from the question. No man, or set of men, official or non-official, has the right to put a padlock on the lips of the growing generation, and prescribe what they may or may not discuss. They have not the right to limit or restrict the free search for the truth. Both the federal and state constitutions, the fundamental law of the land, guarantee and safeguard liberty of speech, liberty of the press and liberty of thought. But another step, and these self appointed czars can dictate the kind of religious views that each pupil may or may not adopt. The only way to find the truth is to search for it, and the only way to search for it is by free discussion, the exchange of opinions, and the unhampered exercise of reason. If single tax is a fallacy, surely free debate can point out its fallacy. If it is logical and sound, it should and will prevail. There is no safety in darkness. The action of the Board of Education not only demonstrates the grossest ignorance and lack of sense on their part, but it is rankly un-American and repugnant to the spirit of our institutions, contrary to the letter of our laws, and violative of the sacred traditions of the Republic. When Henry Ward Beecher once was censured for permitting Ingersoll to occupy his pulpit, he replied, "If Christianity is true, it will not be harmed by any criticism."



Protective Tariff Fraud Exposed.

The Nebraska Farmer (Lincoln), Sept. 9.—The results of placing meats on the free list in the new tariff law afford a good example of the ineffectiveness of duties on farm products, and show how farmers have been hoodwinked all these years by the protective tariff theory. Incidentally the results have given the officers of the American National Livestock Association an opportunity to display their skill in mental acrobatics. A year ago they were throwing fits about the pending tariff bill and insisting that to place meats upon the free list would ruin the livestock industry in this country. Now they are writing encouraging words to assure stockmen that the industry hasn't been injured at all. . . . As we have already said, this is a sample of the way in which farmers have been hoodwinked by the

protection theory. Farm products have been given protection that didn't protect, all to pacify farmers and make them "stand for" protection to interests that it did protect. Now that we have had an actual demonstration of the ineffectiveness of duties on farm products isn't it time for farmers to make a new alignment on the tariff question? Instead of seeking the restoration of ineffective duties on farm products should we not demand that there be further leveling down of the tariff wall?

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

THE WILDERNESS SHALL BLOOM.

For the Public.

With iron-tongued gong and whistle shrill
The vespers of the city peal,
Hushing a while the whirr of wheel
Toll's day-long monotone is still.

The high gray walls of Trade, the gray
Unlovely paves have lifeless grown,—
Become a wilderness of stone
Where e'en the sun seems loath to stray.

A wilderness of stone, till lo,
The desert blooms,—with wild rose lip
And cheek of factory girls who trip
Forth where God's clean breezes blow.

Young flower-like faces where the stress
Of Toll has left no blight—as yet . . .
Touch gently, Zephyrs of the Night,
These Roses of the Wilderness!

ANNA BLANCHE MCGILL.



THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

The guinea pig is not an impressive animal. But he has a remarkable name. This name is remarkable in that the animal is not a pig and did not come from Guinea.

Oliver Wendell Holmes used to protest, in his gentle way, against the misuse of the term, the Christian religion. He thought that in some cases the name guinea pig religion would be better, since what was sometimes called Christian religion was neither Christian nor religion.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is an exposition of religion as taught by the founder of Christianity. It would not be fair to say that this parable is a complete exposition. But it is fair to say that the quality insisted upon by the parable is essential to any religion which is rightly called Christian.

Now, the priest and the Levite of the parable were the respectable representatives of the orthodox religion of their time. The Good Samaritan was a despised heretic. Yet in exalting the

Samaritan the author of the parable does not commit himself to the Samaritan heresy. He does, however, go so far as to say that the deed of the Samaritan is a more satisfactory test of a man's religion than the creed of the priest.

The Samaritan could not have improved upon himself by exchanging his humanity for the orthodoxy of the priest. But the priest could have improved upon himself by exchanging his orthodoxy for the humanity of the Samaritan.

Noble acts are better than icy opinions. Mercy covers a multitude of heresies. Whatever else the Christian religion may be, we are entitled to say that one of its essential qualities must be a warm-hearted devotion to the needs of suffering humanity.

This parable certainly teaches that if we ever happen to be on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho and hear a man groaning in a ditch, it is our duty to go to the man, bind up his wounds, get him to the nearest house or hotel and see that he is cared for and not left to die. But it must be admitted that this parable will have slight application in our day if we wait to encounter precisely these circumstances.

The business of the highwayman was a conspiracy in restraint of trade. Modern governments have suppressed the highway robber. Our Supreme Courts will not permit robberies that are not reasonable. We do not tolerate any unrefined methods of getting something for nothing.

We have to deal, not with the occasional victim of personal violence, but with the widespread effects of unjust institutions. The charity of primitive community is no substitute for the justice of a complex society.

A man cannot be a Good Samaritan today, certainly not in any very vital or important way, unless he has imagination to feel the suffering he never sees, and economic understanding to provide an institutional remedy for institutional ills.

The case which is presented in the parable appears to be one which called for charity and nothing more. But suppose that Jerusalem and Jericho had been self-governing communities. Suppose that the Samaritan had been a Jericho merchant, with a vote in his city and a political influence there. Suppose he had been well aware of the fact that his city government was corrupt and in league with robber bands which raided travelers under protection of the police, and divided the booty with political bosses. Suppose he had known that this wretched man was in reality, therefore, a victim of the Jericho government, which might have protected the life and property of all, but which was run to foster the predatory interests of a few.

If this had been the situation, it could not have been satisfactorily met by isolated acts of charity. After caring for this one victim, it would have been the duty of the Samaritan to try and prevent

a repetition of such crimes. It would have been his duty to try to break up the partnership between his city government and the robbers.

If we can prevent suffering it is more important to do so than to relieve it. We may feel constrained to pay our tithe to charity, but we should not omit the weightier matters of the law; certainly not if we believe that the greater part of the suffering is needlessly produced by the injustice of the law.

If we attribute the ills of humanity to personal delinquency, we shall rely, for improvement, upon agencies that aim to control individual conduct and improve personal character. If we attribute the ills of humanity to the poverty which results from unwise social arrangements, we shall rely, for improvement, upon movements that aim to change political opinion and improve economic conditions.

Some may expect too much, others too little, from social changes that seem only to alter the outer conditions of life. We hold, however, that if there should not be less charity there certainly should be more justice; that if there should not be more effort to relieve suffering, there should certainly be more effort to prevent it. Man's tendency is upward not downward. Our first duty to him is to see that he has the freest and fullest opportunity possible.

More Good Samaritans are needed in politics—men who have a vision of what an infinite mercy it would be if we could uproot from our government every vestige of special privilege and guarantee to every man an equal chance with every other.

We need Good Samaritans who have, besides the vision, the faith that this can be done; men who, with consecrated enthusiasm and a sound comprehension of economic laws, will work passionately for a truer freedom than the world has yet known. This is what we call the religion of inspired politics.

The problem of the Good Samaritan in our day is essentially a problem of government. Adequate remedies must come, not through personal, but through political action.

If the Christian religion necessarily implies devotion to the needs of suffering humanity, and if these needs cannot be served, save by the agency of government, then it is an important function of the Church to urge upon men the duty of political justice.

Let us examine two questions. What are the problems of the modern Samaritan? To what extent is government responsible for these problems?

The Samaritan of the parable found on the roadside one victim of an illegal industry. In the United States there are over three million victims a year of our legal industries. Let us erect here on this stage a wooden platform the length of a man's body. Let us raise on each side of the

platform a tall timber, and join them with a beam at the top. Let us fix a heavy piece of wood to slip up and down in grooves. On the under side of this moving piece let us fasten a sharp, ugly knife, so that when the piece falls the knife will cut off the head of a man, or anything else that may be under it. This is a guillotine. Now, suppose we adjust this pleasant contrivance so that it will work automatically and as rapidly as we desire. Let us set the clock so that the knife will drop every ten seconds. Then every minute there are six blows of the knife, and each blow represents what is said to be a needless and preventable injury or sickness or death in the United States. If I talk an hour the knife will fall three hundred and sixty times. It will fall three hundred and sixty times the next hour and the next. It will fall three hundred and sixty times while you are eating your dinner. It will fall three hundred and sixty times while you are playing on the floor with your child. It will not cease while you sleep. Through the long night and the next day, and through all the nights and all the days of the year it will keep falling.

These are not the victims of cutthroats on the highway. These are the men who are buried in the mines, where they are digging coal for our hearths. They are the men who are cast into fiery furnaces where they are blasting our steel. They are the men whose arms are caught in the looms and whose blood dies our tapestries. They are the men who slip in the night and fall beneath the wheels of our trains. All along the highways of our industrial life are the bruised and the maimed, the dead and the dying.

Oh, yes, we are Good Samaritans. We build hospitals. Also we provide for factory inspection and we pass laws to check this terrible toll. But what about the killing speed of our factories? What about the mad rush of our industrial life, and reckless waste of our men? Are men goaded by fear of want? Are they lured by the chance of extortionate gain? If this is so, is it because God has been niggardly with us? Is it because nature has not made provision enough? Is it not rather that at the core of our industrial life there is the cancer of special privilege? Our government is not yet run in the interest of the life and property of all. It is not in league with robbers who kill men on the highways. But it is used for the defense of the privileges of the few, by which exploitation is legalized and industry is rendered more fatal than war.

We have said that it takes an educated imagination to make a Good Samaritan today. To a man without an imagination what does it mean to say that there are six hundred thousand preventable deaths a year in the United States? Perhaps it would mean something if he were to stand forty days and forty nights watching the procession pass

four abreast. Perhaps he would get some comprehension from that of the extent of this waste. Suppose that our army of one hundred thousand men were massed before Mexico City, and suppose this entire army were blown up and wiped out in an instant by the explosion of mines. Such a catastrophe would stun the whole world. The loss would be unparalleled in the history of human slaughter. It would go down in our school books as a never-to-be-forgotten day, the bloodiest in the annals of man. But suppose we are told that in times of peace there is an industrial army three times greater than this that is destroyed every year. This destruction of life is not due altogether to industrial accidents. The most of it is due to diseases and accidents which are the by-products of poverty and fall mostly upon the poor.

It is difficult for the Good Samaritan to comprehend the enormity of this waste. It is still more difficult for him to trace the connection between this waste and the poverty that is always with us.

The Federal Census of 1910 investigated factories employing a maximum of seven million hands. But this report shows that at certain times of the year the working force of these establishments was reduced by almost a million men. This means that out of seven million American workmen nearly a million of them were out of employment at some time during the year.

If a man is paid \$15.00 on Saturday night and is knocked down by a robber, who takes his pay envelope away from him, he loses the fruits of one week's work. But if the man's employment is precarious and if he is out of work part of the time he is in some respects as badly off as if he had been working and had been robbed. If any Good Samaritan has ever been told Saturday night by the boss that he need not come back to work Monday morning, and if he has ever gone home and looked into the frightened eyes of his wife, and if he has ever had little ones depending upon him and has had to go forth to see a chance to work, not certain of finding it; if any Good Samaritan has ever had this experience, he will reflect upon what a tragedy our industrial life is, that a million men should have this experience every year, here on this unused continent of ours, where monopoly is allowed to speculate in the resources of the earth, and to hold these resources out of use, while capital is hoarded in the banks and labor stands idle in the market place.

An investigation made by the United States Government revealed these industrial conditions in the steel works at Bethlehem, Pa. Out of every one hundred men employed in this plant, twenty-nine worked seven days a week. Forty-three worked some Sundays in the month. Fifty-one worked twelve hours a day, and twenty-five worked twelve hours a day and seven days a week. But the most terrible fact of all is that 46 per cent of

the entire working force was found to receive less than \$2.00 a day.

For a man with a family \$2.00 a day means poverty, even while he works. When an accident or sickness comes, it means pauperism or else it means vice or crime. He who knew about war said it was hell. But so is peace hell on \$2.00 a day with a family to support by precarious employment, working six or seven days a week and twelve hours a day.

In the face of such brutal conditions the Good Samaritan will not be content to build orphanages and almshouses. He will feel the need of something more effective than that. He will desire a government that will guarantee a better chance than this to all men. These conditions exist because government is not used intelligently to protect the lives and property of all. On the contrary, government is still used to grant and defend special privileges to the few.

We have in our penitentiaries 150,000 criminals. We have 172,000 in institutions for the insane. We have 155,000 feeble-minded wards of the state. We have 85,000 in institutions for the deaf and 64,000 in institutions for the blind. Yes, and we have five million, five hundred thousand illiterate persons, mostly Americans. These are a few of the liabilities of the nation. These are some of the by-products of our civilization.

A man could not be a Good Samaritan in dealing with these problems without having some instruction in the first principles of political economy. He who understands how government has interfered with freedom, how unnecessarily it curtails the opportunities of men, and to what extent the inherent injustices of laws we make create poverty—he who understands this will see the tragic helplessness of most of our charities. He will see that poverty, the sink of our social sins, cannot be successfully attacked save by economic changes, to be brought about only through political action. The abolition of poverty is the great work of modern Samaritans, for poverty is the soil in which all these other evils grow.

A man can hardly be a Good Samaritan today who is unable to look upon poverty as Shelley looked upon it:

Thou knowest what a thing is Poverty
Among the fallen of evil days.
'Tis Fear and Crime and Infamy,
And houseless Want in frozen ways,
Wandering ungarmented in Pain,
And worse than all, that inward stain
Foul self-contempt which drowns in sneers,
Youth's star-light smile, then makes its tears,
First hot like gall, then dry forever.

Our message is that the church has a great responsibility in a republic where church members are sovereign citizens, and that the preachers are neglecting opportunities of incalculable importance to the cause of true religion and humanity.

The greatest need of our time is a revival of a politically expressed religion. Man's greatest need is not faith in God. He believes in God, but he believes with a heavy heart. What he needs is the faith that he has the power and is called to establish the kingdom of heaven on earth. If he had that faith, his faith in God would become a living force in his life.

You men and women are not happy. You feel a great lack in your life. But you do not know what that lack is. I will tell you what it is. What you crave is religion, a religion that can satisfy your mind and fill your heart. Your life needs the kindling power of a great enthusiasm. You are eternal. You were meant to live in heroic deeds. What you need is the thrill of a holy passion. There surges up in your soul an infinite yearning. You must have more than the husks of existence. Nothing will satisfy you but the divine fire of a great faith, faith that you now have the power to open the gates of heaven.

We do not preach salvation by the initiative and referendum or by the single tax. But the soul is awakened into a God-intoxicated life by the overmastering passion for a great truth, or by the stirring appeal of a noble cause. You are citizens with ballots in your hands. You are kings of the richest portion of the globe in this age of transcendent opportunity. Why not crown your days with glory? Do you say that there are mountains of ignorance and indifference on every side? I tell you that faith can remove those mountains. You can win in your day a new and wonderful social justice. Believe in yourselves and in your divine mission to do this thing. Believe and act. The joy of the battle, the divineness of the deed, will be to you the birth of a new life.

The hour calls for churches filled with consecrated citizens, men and women who strive with fervor for the abolition of poverty and the industrial emancipation of the race. The hour calls for a church militant. We need Isaiahs for preachers. We need Savonarolas to arise in all our cities and speak with tongues and hearts aflame the mighty message of a conquering faith. These mountains of unbelief must be melted away. The world's ignorance and indifference must be riven with the lightnings of God. The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Your eyes and mine, if we will, shall see the glory of the coming of the Lord.

HERBERT S. BIGELOW.



Conflicting views, if intelligently expressed, are the millstones that grind prejudice into dust.—The Mediator.



Sometimes the prejudices of the parents are visited upon the children, even to the third and fourth generation.—Appeal to Reason.

HORRORS OF WAR.

From *The Wine Press* by Alfred Noyes.

Mown down! Mown down! Mown down! Mown down!

They staggered in sheets of fire,
They reeled like ships in a sudden blast,
And shreds of flesh went spattering past,
Like fiends from hell—Retire!

The tall young men, the tall young men,
That were so fain to die,
It was not theirs to question,
It was not theirs to reply.

They had broken their hearts on the cold machines;
And—they had not seen their foe;
And the reason of this butcher's work
It was not theirs to know;
For these tall young men were children
Five short years ago.

Headlong, headlong, down the hill,
They leapt across their dead.
Like madmen, wrapped in sheets of flame,
Yelling out of their hell they came,
And, in among their plunging hordes,
The shrapnel burst and spread.

The shrapnel severed the leaping limbs
And shrieked above their flight,
They rolled and plunged and writhed like snakes
In the red hill-brooks and the blackthorn brakes,
Their mangled bodies tumbled like elves
In a wild Walpurgis night.

Slaughter! Slaughter! Slaughter!
The cold machines whirled on.
And strange things crawled among the wheat
With entrails dragging round their feet,
And over the foul red shambles
A fearful sunlight shone.

BOOKS

THE POETRY OF DEMOCRACY.

The Uncommon Commoner and Similar Songs of Democracy. By Edmund Vance Cooke. Published by the Dodge Publishing Co., New York. 1913. Price, \$1.50.

This is the Democracy, not of school or party, but of the "Uncommon Commoner" claiming citizenship in the Country of the Soul. There is not a note in these songs that does not ring with the power and joy of truth simply and strongly expressed. The poet's thought strikes down to the deep heart of every subject that it touches, with no taint of sickly sentimentality and no strained effort at poetic phrasing though the sounding rhythm of these songs of democracy holds an arresting charm not found in the aimless verse of some of our sweetest singers.

In one of the terse, pregnant sentences at the

front of each poem Mr. Cooke asks: "What is poetry? Is it not seeing the commonplace thing in the uncommonplace way?" And this uncommon but delightful faculty is displayed in a surprising manner to the conventional reader of the "Songs of Time and Place" and of "Struggle and Strength," with the plea of "Labor," and the taunt of "Thanksgiving," which possibly have never been regarded from the poet's viewpoint. The folk who plod along in the accustomed rut of opinion on vital matters will be wholesomely moved by suggestions swinging in ringing measures through this handsome volume which is heartily commended to the attention of all seekers of original poetry that says something.

A. L. M.



CREDIT.

The Credit System. By W. G. Langworthy Taylor. Published by the Macmillan Company, New York. 1913. Price, \$2.25 net.

This book, says the author in the preface, "explains what credit is, what it does and how it works." Incidentally, it discusses many more or less related problems, including the functions of coined and paper money, interest, high and low prices, crises, bimetallism and others.

Throughout the book the author reiterates and emphasizes the statement that "money is the alternative, it is, on special occasions, the substitute for credit; credit is not the substitute for money." "Credit is manifestly the more important instrument of the two, for reserve is only held against a contingency, in case the promise-fabric crumble for a moment and men be compelled to resort to more primitive circumstances and procedure." In almost all cases, he reminds us, "an economic promise is fulfilled, not by payment, but by liquidation."

Crisis comes because goods do not realize the values expected, and the obligations contracted on the strength of such expectations cannot be met; then, if they cannot be renewed, if actual payment is demanded, we soon have ample evidence of the fact that, normally, "the circulating medium is credit"; "indebtedness is the indispensable tool of economic production and traffic."

In discussing interest, Professor Taylor finds that the prominent schools, that is to say, that of Bohm-Bawerk and the productivity school, as represented by Professor Clark, are not in such conflict as their disciples seem to think.

His argument against bimetallism will hardly convert the supporters of that theory, and the advocates of government paper money will probably insist that their various schemes can be differentiated from those which, in the past, have met disaster.

The Singletax is classed with free silver, anti-trust acts, pure food inspection, rate regulation

and some other propositions and measures, which, the author says, contain "elements of usefulness but are too frequently offered as panaceas."

The references at the end of each "part" of the book furnish a very comprehensive reading guide for anyone who wishes to pursue the subject or any of its branches, or to test the author's statements or conclusions. Prof. Taylor makes not even the most modest allusion to this feature of his work, but it deserves notice and will surely be appreciated by students.

WILLIAM E. McKENNA.

PAMPHLETS

The Singletax.

The Chicago Singletax Club, 508 Schiller Building, Chicago, has just issued a pamphlet (The Singletax. By E. J. Batten. Price 5 cents, 12 copies 40 cents, 100 copies \$1.50) of a few pages rich in the kind of information which one should be ready to impart to the person whose interest in the Singletax has just been awakened, or to the one whose interest it is desired to awaken. It tells what the Singletax is, what has been accomplished by the slight applications of its principle in various places, what it will do if completely applied, and what practical methods appear to be the best way to get it. There are some figures given which even the veteran Singletaxer will find worth studying. Such a one will find the case for the Singletax to be stronger than he imagined, on noting the fact that land values in Chicago's business section amount to \$427,704,305, while building values are only \$106,579,431. Then there is a condensed up-to-date account of the practical progress of the movement, and an account of movements under way. While many of its illustrations are drawn from local sources it is a bit of propaganda literature that will be valuable anywhere.

S. D.

A small boy had been given a penny with a hole in it. Handing it to a still smaller companion, he said:

"Jimmie, I dare you to go into that store and buy something with this penny."

Jimmie was quite willing. Entering boldly, he said:

"I want a doughnut." And, taking it, he hastily presented the penny.

"Here," said the clerk, "this penny has a hole in it."

"So has the doughnut," announced Jimmy, triumphantly holding it up.—Dellneator.

Hans and Fritz, two small boys, had gone to the rink to skate. Hans' overcoat hampered him and he wanted to get rid of it. The German coat-room person does not check your coat unless you pay your fee. The fee was only a penny, but Hans did not have the penny. He was at a loss.

"Huh! it's dead easy," spoke up Fritz. "Give me

your overcoat. I'll take it to the man at the checking place and say I found it. He'll put it away. When you are ready to go home you go to him and ask if anybody has turned a lost overcoat in to him. Then, of course, you'll get yours."—New York Evening Post.

A teachers' meeting was in progress, and it was decided that the more difficult subjects should come in the morning, and those that required less application later in the day. History was last on the list, and Miss Wheeler, the young teacher, protested.

"But it certainly is easier than science or mathematics," the principal insisted.

"As I teach it," replied the young teacher, "no subject could be more difficult and confusing."—Lippincott's.

Standing by the entrance of a large estate in the suburbs of Dublin are two huge dogs carved out of granite.

An Englishman going by in a motor thought he would have some fun with the Irish driver.

"How often, Jack, do they feed those two dogs?"

"Whenever they bark, sir," was the straightforward reply.—Truth Seeker.

Stranger—"Upon what plan are your city institutions conducted?"

Citizen—"A sort of let-George-do-it system—without any George."—Puck.

"My dear old fellow! What's the matter? The sea's like a duck-pond!"

"I know, old boy—but I've taken six—different remedies."—Punch.

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and financial support to defeat Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Missouri State Constitution. This proposed Amendment is a veiled attack on the initiative and referendum and seeks to forever prevent the people voting on any question pertaining to taxation. Mail contributions to—H. E. REED, Secretary, Missouri Popular Government League, Vandeventer and Delmar Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Los Angeles, Calif. Home Rule in Taxation League, 516 American Bank Building. Visitors in Los Angeles are invited to make the League their headquarters.

An Important Capitalization

An encouraging but somewhat mushy fact daily stares a radical in the face nowadays: almost everyone is at least courteously sympathetic with his advanced ideas.

Suppose you capitalize that sympathy to the extent of a dime a throw. See the last page.